

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 04453 151105Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----071659 160439Z /20

R 151046Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2376
NFO RUQMYA/USLO RIYADH 1757
AMCOSNUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4453

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, SA
SUBJECT: LABOR PROBLEMS: WOMEN WORKING

REF: (A) RIYADH 397 (B) RIYADH 398

1. I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD AND DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE PRINCE TURKI ON JUN E 14 AT RIYADH. WE COVERED TWO BASIC QUESTIONS: WOMEN WORKING AND MY CONVERSATION THE PREVIOUS EVENING WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD (SEE SPETEL).

2. WORKING WOMAN IS OBVIOUSLY A MOST SENSITIVE, AND POSSIBLE EXPLOSIVE, ISSUE WITHIN SAG. (SEE REFTELS). I TOLD PRINCE SAUD THAT I HAD RELAYED TO THE MAERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN RIYADH HIS INSTRUCTIONS THAT NO ACTION WAS TO BE TAKEN TO DISCHARGE WOMEN PENDING A DIRECT ORDER FROM A MINISTRY WITH SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY OVER THE WOMEN QUESTION. I WAS IMMEDIATELY INFORMED BY AM AMERICAN FIRM THAT THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS HAD DIRECTED THEM TO DISCHARGE THEIR WOMEN EMPLOYEES. PRINCE SAUD REPEATED THAT NO ACTION WAS TO BE TAKEN AND THAT THE MATTER WAS BEING WORKED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT.
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HE SAID THAT IF ANY ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL CAME TO AN EMPLOYER, IT WOULD SIMPLY TO BE INVESTIGATE AND THAT WOMEN WOULD NOT BE JAILED OR THE COMPANIES FINED. I TOLD HIM AGAIN THAT WE WERE RELYING ON HIS ASSURANCE AND SINCE I HAD HIS HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER I WOULD CALL HIM IMMEDIATELY IF ANY AMERICAN WOMEN WENT TO JAIL. HE DID NOT SHARE THE HUMOR OF THIS REMARK BUT REITERATED

THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE WORKED OUT. HE INDICATED THAT
WOMEN PRESENTLY WORKING WOULD PROBABLY APPLY AND BE
GIVEN WORK PERMITS AND THAT WOMEN WOULD NOT BE EMPLOYED
IN THE FUTURE UNLESS THEY FIRCEIVED SUCH PERMITS.
HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THIAIT THIS PROCEDURE HAD NOT
BEEN FINALIZED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 15 jun 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: ELAB, SA
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